

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 03601 201028Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /028 W
-----201032Z 099967 /11/47R
O R 191331Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8246
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3601

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT //PAR 2//

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PL
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN POLAND

REF: (A) WARSAW 3533, (B) STATE 114612, (C) WARSAW 3597

1. THE LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS TROUBLE ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH MEMORIAL EVENTS FOR STANISLAW PYJAS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IS PROBABLY LOW, PROVIDED THE AUTHORITIES BEHAVE PRUDENTLY. WE CANNOT RULE OUT COERCIVE MEASURES BY THE POLICE, ESPECIALLY IF CONFRONTED WITH OPEN DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT SECURITY ORGANS ARE LIKELY TO BE UNDER STRICT ORDERS TO MINIMIZE CHANCES FOR A SHARP CONFRONTATION WITH STUDENTS AND OTHERS. A MEMORIAL MASS IN WARSAW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20 IS LIKELY TO BE A GAUGE OF THE TEMPER OF STUDENTS AND THE POLICE. A SERVICE IN LODZ ON MAY 16 APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT.

2. WE HAVE NOT HEARD REPORTS OF FERMENT ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES. OUR CONSULATE IN KRAKOW REPORTED ON MAY 19 THAT A NEWLY ARRIVED VISITOR IN THE CITY WOULD NOT BE AWARE OF THE WEEKEND'S EVENTS, EXCEPT FOR THE PLACE WHERE PYJAS WAS FOUND DEAD, WHICH RESEMBLES A SMALL SHRINE. THE POLICE PRESENCE PRESENCE IS NOT NOTICEABLE AND NOT FURTHER
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STUDENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN REPORTED SINCE 15 STUDENTS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE WEEKEND OF THE CREATION OF A NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION. OUR POZNAN CONSULATE REPORTS NO SIGNS OF STUDENT OR OTHER ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION WITH PYJAS'S DEATH.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THE FAMILIES OF KURON AND OTHER WDL

LEADERS NOW IN CUSTODY HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION BY TELEPHONE THAT THE DETENTION PERIOD COULD BE UP TO 90 DAYS; NO MENTION WAS MADE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE FOR A TRIAL WAS PRESENTED PUBLICLY ON MAY 18 (REF C), BUT WE BELIEVE THE AUTHORITIES ARE DELAYING A DECISION TO HOLD A TRIAL AND WOULD PREFER NOT TO DO SO. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE COULD INFLUENCE THIS DECISION. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A BETTER READING OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE TOP LEADERSHIP WHEN AN EMBASSY OFFICER MEETS WITH JERZY WASZCZUK, GIEREK'S CHIEF PERSONAL ASSISTANT, ON MAY 23.

4. THE 15,000 FIGURE CONTAINED IN REF (A) IS THE ESTIMATE OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO WITNESSED THE MARCH. A CONSULAR OFFICER IN KRAKOW COUNTED 1500 DEMONSTRATORSV HE BELIEVES ANY ESTIMATE OVER 5000 IS TOO HIGH. COMMENT: IT IS MY EXPERIENCE THAT NO TWO OBSERVERS EVER REACH AN AGREED CROWD ESTIMATE. MAY I SUGGEST THAT THE FORMULA TO USE IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS: " MOST OBSERVERS PLACED THE SIZE OF THE CROWD AROUND 5,000, ALTHOUGH ONE ESTIMATE WAS AS HIGH AS 15,000"? END COMMENT.

5. AS FOR WHAT TO SAY TO THE PRESS. I RECOMMEND THAT WE AVOID COMMENT. ANYTHING WE SAY PUBLICLY IS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOP AS INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IF THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MUST COMMENT, I RECOMMEND SOMETHING ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

" I HARDLY NEED TO TELL YOU THAT, AS A MATTER
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OF PRINCIPLE, OFFICIALS OF OUR GOVERNMENT FOLLOW WITH CLOSE ATTENTION AND DEEP SYMPATHY THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO EXERCISE RESPONSIBLY THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION."

DAVIES

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NNN

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